(c) In Tamil Nadu, 37 godowns with a storage capacity of 41721 tonnes have so far been sanctioned. It is planned to assist construction of rural godowns of 36 lakh tonnes (32 lakh tonnes new storage 4 lakh tonnes renovation) capacity during the remaining period of Tenth Plan in the country. Entrepreneurs in Tamil Nadu can take up any number of storage projects within the said targeted capacity.

Drought Proofing Policy

1863. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a permanent policy on Drought Proofing;

(b) if so, the salient features of the policy; and

(c) the details of the assistance extended to Karnataka as the drought affected State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) to (c) Drought Proofing involves extending irrigation coverage, improving soil moisture through proper management of water and treating susceptible areas to reduce their vulnerability to frequent failures of rains. A policy framework exists which seeks to achieve these objectives through a number of initiatives such as:

(i) Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP)

(ii) Desert Development Programme (DDP)

(iii) National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA)

(iv) Watershed Development in Catchments of River Valley Projects and Flood Prone Rivers (RVP & FPR)

(v) Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP)

(vi) Watershed Development Project for Shifting Cultivation Areas (WDPSCA)

(vii) Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP).

The State of Karnataka has received the following additional assistance for drought relief operations in the recent years:

Year	Financial Assistance† (Rs. in crores)	Foodgrains# (Lakh MTs)	Approximate Value (Rs. in crores)
2002-03	207.65	7.20	838
2003-04	298.16	7.29	913
2004-05	83.67*	1.14	143

† National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF)

special component of Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)

* subject to adjustment balances in the State Calamity Relief Fund (CRF)

Damage to rabi crop due to natural disasters

†1864. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that severe damage to the crop of rabi has been estimated due to untimely rain in the Southern region as well as hailstorm in the Northern region;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the production, on about 44000 hectare of land, has been affected on account of the above factors;

(c) if not, Government's assessment in this regard and the value of agro-produce estimated to be damaged due to above reasons; and

(d) the relief decided to be provided to the producers to compensate such loss?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA) : (a) and (b) As per the assessment made in the crop weather watch group meeting held on 14th March, 2005, there is no severe damage to the rabi crop due to untimely rain or hailstorm. In fact, as per the assessment of the crop weather watch group, the area

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.